

# Senator Marilyn Rasmussen

## 2nd Legislative District

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*The 2nd District consists of all or parts of: Dupont, Ft. Lewis, Lakewood, Parkland, Spanaway, South Hill, Frederickson, Graham, Orting, Bonney Lake, Prairie Ridge, Eatonville, Roy and McKenna.*

Recycled



Dear Neighbors,

Winter 2002

The legislative session is almost over and we face many challenges. The slowing economy has devastated the state budget, transportation delays are testing drivers' patience, law enforcement is forced to cope with post-Sept. 11 security issues, K-12 enrollments are growing, and health-care costs continue to rise. With all these priorities competing for the state's resources, this session is filled with many difficult choices.

These past few months have been trying for many military families in the 2nd District. My thoughts and prayers go out to our armed forces personnel. I salute the valiant sacrifice of Sgt. 1st Class Nathan R. Chapman of the U.S. Army Special Forces based at Fort Lewis. Special thanks to our Army and Air Force reservists, National Guardsmen and their employers for their contributions to our national security.

My office door is always open. I will be glad to visit with you or your group at any time. Remember that I work for you, and I am happy to troubleshoot your difficulties with state agencies. Feel free to call me at home or in Olympia.

Warmest regards,

Senator Marilyn Rasmussen

Home phone: (253) 847-3276  
Home address:  
33419 Mountain Highway E.  
Eatonville, WA 98328

## Budget Shortfall — \$1.6 billion (2/19/02)

- Schools are the top priority — no major cuts in education! School enrollments are rising faster than expected.
- Health-care costs are escalating. We provide more care to children, the elderly and other vulnerable citizens, while provider reimbursement rates fail to keep pace with the costs of care.
- Law enforcement, rising prison populations and terrorism prevention activities in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks have also increased budget expenses.
- These factors, coupled with the downturn in the economy, have caused a revenue shortfall of \$1.6 billion.

## Transportation

- We must begin critical transportation projects to improve our highways and provide thousands of jobs.
- I recognize that the people would like to have a role in voting on the proposed gas-tax increase.

- Our area's fast growth rate and lack of infrastructure improvements threatens the loss of jobs and major industries.
- Most-critical needs: cross-base highway, Meridian (161) and 162.
- Thanks to the public/private partnership that financed the left-turn lane on 161!
- Thanks also for the light at 260th and Highway 7!

## Selected Rasmussen Legislation

- Increase penalties for violent or property crimes committed by terrorists at agriculture research facilities.
- Bills to give law enforcement more tools to combat meth labs in our neighborhoods. Meth Hot Line: (888) 609-6384.
- Brand "rebuilt" salvage vehicles and their titles to better inform consumers.
- Redefine "veteran" to provide additional benefits to veterans who serve in peacetime, National Guardsmen and Army and Air Force reservists.

**Alert:** The Senate passes bills to reduce prescription-drug costs (SB 6368) and overturn a voter-approved initiative on animal trapping (SB 5831). 2/18/02.

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Sen. Rasmussen with Senate Page Jessica Carlson.

## Keep in Touch!

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**Committees:** Agriculture & International Trade (chair); Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions; Education; Ways & Means; Joint Select Committee on Veteran's & Military Affairs (chair).